

## POLES WILL FIGHT UNTIL PEACE COMES

Little Chance of Ceasing Hostilities With Reds Before Terms Are Settled.

## EXPECT LONG PARLEYS

Treaty Between Russia and Finland to Be Signed To-day.

By the Associated Press.  
Riga, Latvia, September 18 (delayed).

After a two hours' conference this afternoon between M. Dombalski, head of the Polish Peace Mission, and Adolph Joffe, chief of the Russian Soviet delegation, the opinion was expressed to the Associated Press by M. Ladau, secretary for the Polish mission, that there is little chance of a cessation of the Russo-Polish fighting until preliminary peace terms are agreed upon. Action at the conference, which will endeavor to reach an agreement on armistice terms and formulate a treaty of peace between Poland and Soviet Russia, will be controlled largely by the military situation, according to views expressed here.

The favorable military situation of the Poles at present, which makes their position more secure, and the delay in the arrival of the Polish delegates here, coupled with the deliberateness of the preliminary procedure, have created the impression that the conference may be long drawn out. Until the Poles are able to establish a line which can readily be defended, it is considered probable in some official quarters here that Poland will not agree to a cessation of hostilities.

M. Melnitsch, Lithuanian Minister of Foreign Affairs, will open the peace conference Tuesday with an address of welcome, to which M. Dombalski and Joffe will respond. The presiding officer will be M. Dombalski, it being his turn to preside under the terms of the agreement reached at Minsk.

This afternoon's conference was held behind closed doors at the Black Head House, erected as a club for bachelor merchants in the fourteenth century. M. Joffe drove to the conference in a limousine which belonged to the former Emperor of Russia, while M. Dombalski arrived in a dilapidated one horse vehicle.

STOCKHOLM, Sept. 18 (delayed).—The peace treaty between Russia and Finland is to be signed Monday at Dorpat, says a Helsingfors despatch to the Dagens Nyheter, to-day.

## GERMAN MINISTER RESIGNS.

Dr. Wirth Quits in Protest Against Higher Wage Demands.

LOBBY, Sept. 19.—Dr. Wirth, German Minister of Finance, has resigned, says a Berlin despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company.

It is said he left office as a protest against demands of post and railway officials for higher wages without a simultaneous increase in taxes being authorized.

## BIG FIRE IN JOHANNESBURG.

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa, Sept. 19.—Fire destroyed the engine room and a mill house containing 400 stamping machines in the Kaiberg mine. The mine is the gold fields nearby. The damage is estimated at \$200,000.

## ALAND ISLANDS IN HANDS OF LEAGUE

Premier Says Sweden Won't Give Them Up and Expects Council's Award.

## AIM IS TO PREVENT WARS

Tense Feeling Dissipated by Prompt Action and Both Sides Satisfied.

By the Associated Press.  
PARIS, Sept. 19.—The League of Nations, through its intervention in the Aland Islands question between Sweden and Finland, has proved its right to live as an effective means of preventing future wars growing out of international disputes, Hjalmar Branting, Prime Minister of Sweden, said to-day.

"I will not use the word 'war,' but the situation between Sweden and Finland was tense," Premier Branting declared. "The Council of the League, through its cautious but prompt action, has dissipated the feeling and Sweden believes the council will settle the matter to the satisfaction of both countries."

"Sweden has complete confidence in the League as a means of preventing future wars, and proof of this lies in the fact that we unhesitatingly placed our case in its hands. I believe the action the League has taken on the Aland Islands question furnishes proof to the world that the League, even in its present state, is an efficient world court for hearing international difficulties and forestalling conflicts between nations. All that the League needs to make it a most effective and certain instrument of reducing future wars to the absolute minimum is the participation of the United States, Sweden and the other nations of the world await the entrance of America with anxiety and the keenest interest."

Referring to Sweden's position concerning the Aland Islands, Premier Branting pointed out that Sweden never would give up the islands, which, he declared, are essentially Swedish. Sweden has suggested a plebiscite to prove her claim, the Premier said, but the Council has not yet decided what means it will employ and three commissioners will make an investigation. Premier Branting expressed the belief that the commissioners' report will recommend return of the islands to Swedish sovereignty. Their inquiry will disprove the Finnish contention that the majority of the islanders are Finns, Premier Branting asserted, and the islanders themselves have expressed strongly a desire to be joined with Sweden.

M. Branting, Finnish Minister in Paris, declared to-day that the League of Nations' conclusions of Saturday, when the Council of the League decided it had the right to act as arbitrator between Sweden and Finland in the Aland Islands controversy and announced its intention of appointing a commission of three to investigate the question, were based on inaccurate premises, inadmissible by Finland.

The Council of the League of Nations has requested the allied Premiers to furnish the conditions upon which modulations have been granted to the various Powers and the exact boundaries established for mandatory territories.



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